

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY  
PO BOX 356; MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471  
802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:33 p.m. via Zoom. Attendance: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Charlie Hancock, Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, John Kuryloski, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: None.

Visitor(s): None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Minutes from May 5, 2021 – Sue W. made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan B. The members present who had been at the April meeting all voted in favor. Charlie abstained from the vote because he had not been at the May meeting. Motion passed; May 5, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue reported that there is \$14,344.69 in the checking account and \$75K in the CD. The CD will come due at the end of this month and will be renewed for another six months at that time. In addition, a check from Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic (UMATR) for \$2,250.00 for ½ of the grant award was just received. Parma made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Joan. Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer's Report approved.

**Planned Events/Projects:**

- **Installation of Bat Boxes** – Carissa reported that the Rec. Board and school have approved locations for the boxes. The plan is to install them on **Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the Rec. Center.** Matt and John have agreed to bring tools/materials for the installation and others are welcome to join.
- **Trout River Feasibility Study re: Water Quality Improvements** – The MCC was notified of its award of a \$4,500 grant from UMATR, with the MCC providing a match of an additional \$500. After discussion about technical service provider options, Sue W. moved that Joan contact Sinuosity and Arrowwood re: their interest and availability. John seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Subcommittee of Carissa, Charlie, Joan and Susan was formed.
- **Town Forest (TF) Improvements/Coordination with Adjoining Landowners** – Charlie provided an overview of the draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) he developed as well as information about lower impact logging techniques which could be utilized. Charlie said that he would recuse himself when the time comes to approve (or disapprove) the FMP because he had developed it. There was discussion re: next steps, including putting the proposed FMP on the Town website as well as on the MCC's Facebook page for interested community members to review. **On Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Grange there will be an informational meeting re: the TF.** Charlie will go over the FMP and Matt will lead a discussion about the

Town Forest and ideas re: its use. Matt will also send out a mailing to TF abutting landowners re: the FMP and the 6/30 meeting. In addition, work will be done on a draft TF plan. Subcommittee of Carissa, Charlie, John, Lynn and Matt was formed.

- **Love Your Mums Sale – 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in September** – No updates. All set.

**Discussion:**

- **Gifted Green Up Day Tree from 2020** – Carissa has identified a location for planting at Riverwalk near the knotweed demonstration area. The tree could be planted the same day the bat boxes are being installed.
- **Swimming Hole Signs** – Legal issues need clarification. Lynn will draft a letter to the Town lawyer re: legal questions and forward it to Charlie for his review. Then Charlie could send it along to the lawyer.
- **Subcommittee for MCC Chairperson Position** – The subcommittee of Carissa, Patrick and John had met and agreed that any current member of the MCC who is interested in the role of Chairperson would do a very good job. They did ask three MCC members if any of them would be interested in the role at this time but none of them was. Carissa has agreed to stay on as Chair for now, but there was discussion re: ways of decreasing her workload in the role. Matt raised the idea of having more subcommittees for various tasks. All agreed and this was initiated, with several subcommittees formed.
- **Future Meetings – Zoom or In Person** – Charlie reported that Covid-19-related guidelines have been eased significantly and in-person meetings are now more feasible. Therefore, the decision was made to resume in-person MCC meetings starting in July. They will be held at the Rec Center.
- **Trail Erosion in the Gibou** – Joan (as a member of the MCC) had been contacted by concerned community members re: erosion/damage/littering concerns at the headwaters of West Hill Brook. This had been Vermont Land Trust property but will be under new ownership. Joan provided some photos and an overview of the observed damage. It was agreed to form a subcommittee of Joan, Patrick and Susan, and to invite the community members who had raised the concerns to be included as volunteers. A report documenting the damage with photos, GPS coordinates and measurements will need to be developed with the goal of sharing this with the new landowners and initiating discussion with them.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth